



President's Message

Is this the end?

Can the Sarasota Branch continue on without a president and a treasurer?

Is it time to face reality and close the branch?

What other options exist?

Our March meeting will focus on a discussion about the future of AAUW Sarasota. Please plan to attend.

Lois Fisch, President

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March Guest Speaker



Deb Mazzaferro

Floridians for the National Popular Vote

Deb Mazzaferro believes the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is the best way to ensure every vote counts in electing the president and vice-president. Since 2017 she has been an advocate, Subject Matter Expert and founding member of Floridians for NPV.

Deb's role includes building coalitions, marketing and legislative advocacy.

Since 2001, Deb has been known as CoachMaz, guiding small businesses in their sales and marketing strategy and execution. She is a certified coach by the Gestalt Center for Organizational and Systems Development and Positive Intelligence .

Deb is the League of Women Voter's liaison to the LWV New College Student Chapter. She is a director on the Tara Master Association and a Florida resident since 1987.

National Popular Vote or Electoral College? How about both? Since 2006, there has been an interstate compact that uses the Electoral College to improve how the US elects its president by popular vote. Eighteen jurisdictions have passed the law. We are now 77% of the way to implementing a national popular vote. Come learn about this elegant change that conserves states rights and gives One Person, One Vote.

Honoring Our 50 Year Members!



Our January meeting was special for the opportunity to present three members with certificates honoring their 50 year membership in AAUW. The photo shows **Sue Ritchey** and **Liz Smith**, who joined AAUW in 1975, flanking **Kathy Schersten**, who joined in 1976. All three also happen to be Lifetime members, which means that at some point they paid for 20 years of National dues, which has exempted them from ever having to pay those dues again. As Honorary 50 year members they are also exempted from Florida state dues (but still pay branch dues).

And all three are still volunteering their time to the branch! Sue and Liz continue to coordinate the Write-Read-Write program and remain on the Membership Committee. Kathy is a Past President and continues to help with luncheons and anywhere else she is asked.

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PROPOSED Budget for 2026-2027



AAUW Sarasota has done great things with our time, talent and money. In addition, we had a successful fundraiser in January. Now is the time to plan for the future. Please join us for the April 15th Branch Meeting at 2:00pm for our Annual General Meeting where we will approve a budget that aligns with our strategic plan and current priorities.

In the document below, the first two columns are the current budget (2025-2026) and the actual spending to date. Estimates of our year-end spending show that we would end the year with \$2,500 in reserves and \$4,060 available.

The PROPOSED budget in the fourth column results in a balanced budget with \$2,500 in reserves. To achieve this, expenses have been reduced and we have projected raising \$3,500. Note that, there are no funds allocated for the Teacher support program, Miss Sarasota Softball, NCCWSL or Tech Trek.

[DOWNLOAD HERE: PROPOSED Budget for 2026-2027](#)

PROPOSED Philanthropy Plan for 2026-2027



Thanks to members and friends of AAUW Sarasota who have come before us, we have three endowed funds held at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. These funds provide about \$12,000 each year for our Branch to support non-profit organizations. Now is the time to decide how we will spend the funds that will be allocated to us during fiscal year 2026-2027. Please join us for the April 15th Branch Meeting at 2:00pm for our Annual General Meeting where we will approve a Philanthropy Plan that aligns with our strategic plan and current priorities.

In the document below, the first two columns are the approved Philanthropy Plan (2025-2026) and the revised Philanthropy Plan. The third column shows spending to date (zero).

The last column shows our PROPOSED Philanthropy Plan for 2026-2027.

[DOWNLOAD HERE: Philanthropy Plan for 2026-2027](#)

Membership Corner

Welcome our newest member!

Rebecca Rasmussen

Please welcome new member Rebecca Rasmussen and add her to your contact lists. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska with a BSc and Masters in Entomology/Zoology.

1077 Mallard Marsh Dr., Sarasota, FL 34229; rvnrass@aol.com

This year, rather than a booklet-type Directory, a printed copy of our branch roster is available at meetings. The information was taken from the National roster, so if you never updated your contact information at that level, it may be wrong. Please let Diana know of any corrections

and she can update you on the AAUW Community Hub. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you let her know and she will send it - she won't send an email copy due to security risks. If you cannot make a meeting feel free to ask someone else that you will see to pick it up for you.

Please make the following corrections:

Joan Nasser's new physical address is:

3950 Oakley Greene, Sarasota, FL 34235

Thank you, Diana Sells

DUES UPDATE

Beginning April 1, 2026, AAUW Sarasota dues will increase to \$109 because national member dues will increase by \$2 to \$76. The AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase national dues last February 2025.



**The North County
Book Group**

**Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 –
11:00 AM**

Location: North Sarasota

Library Conference Room

Sue McGowan will lead a discussion of *The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, From the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement* by Sharon McMahon. If you are interested in joining our North County Book Group, please contact Lois Fisch at lfischutica.edu.



The Gulf Gate Book Group

**Tuesday, March 24th, 2026 –
11:30 AM**

**Location: Gulf Gate Library 2nd
Floor Conference Room**

At this meeting we will select our books for the 2026/2027 season. All suggestions are welcome.

If you have any questions, you can contact Jocelyn Baskey on Tel. # (419) 559 6319 or email baskey0@gmail.com.





Branch Name Tag Orders

If you wish to order a permanent AAUW Sarasota name tag, complete the form below with your name exactly as you want it to read on your name tag. Each name tag is \$10 and has a magnetic backing to secure the name tag. You can either bring the completed form to the next Branch meeting, post mail or scan the completed form and send it back via email at nbrennan617@gmail.com. Nancy Brennan will deliver your new name tag to you at the next Branch meeting. She will take your \$10 payment at delivery. Payment can be cash or check made out to AAUW Sarasota.

Please feel free to contact Nancy with any questions at her email address or phone 941-924-5951. If you wish to mail your form, please send it to: 3257 Pinecrest St, Sarasota FL 34239.

NAME TAG ORDER FORM

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The AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forums

Wouldn't you like more in-depth information on the important issues facing Florida from an equity-focused, nonpartisan viewpoint? Then be sure to attend as many **AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forums** this year as you can. All sessions start at 6:00 PM on Tuesday evenings.

They are open to AAUW members and guests. All sessions require pre-registration.

If you have any questions, contact Mary Gatta, AAUW Florida Public Policy Issue Forum Organizer at gatta.mary@gmail.com

You will need to RSVP for each session individually (link below). Once you RSVP you will receive a Zoom link for the session via email.

Women's Economic Security 3/31/26

AAUW Sarasota Ballet Enthusiasts



NEXT PROGRAM

PROGRAM 7
**Foundations of
Royalty**

Sarasota Opera
House

May 2nd, 2:00pm

If you are interested in more information about our Ballet Enthusiast Interest Group, please contact Nancy Brennan at nbrennan617@gmail.com.

Third Friday Bridge



If you enjoy good company, friendly competition, and a few hours of engaging conversation, we'd love to have you join our Third Friday Bridge Group! Whether you're a seasoned player or just looking to reconnect with the game, this is a wonderful opportunity to gather, play, and build community.

The group meets on the third Friday of each month. If you're interested in participating or would like more details, please contact Maureen Firth at firthent@yahoo.com.

Save the Date! Spring Luncheon

Once more our AAUW Spring Luncheon will be at the popular Marina Jack Restaurant with its Valet Service, Water Views, and excellent cuisine. Bring a friend and send your Reservation in NOW for a special afternoon.

NOTE: Online Credit Card Payment will be installed soon. Credit Card payment can be made with the Reservation Form.

SPRING LUNCHEON REGISTRATION FORM

Calendar of Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Tue. Mar. 3rd	11:00am	Board Meeting	Sarasota Women's Resource Center
Tue. Mar. 17th	11:00am	The North County Book Group	North Sarasota Library (conference room)
Wed. Mar. 18th	2:00pm	Branch General Meeting	Sarasota Women's Resource Center
Thu. Mar. 19th	10:00am-3:00pm	Regional Conference	Venice Art Center
Tue. Mar. 24th	11:30am	Gulf Gate Book Group	Gulf Gate Library
Tue. Mar. 31st	6:00pm	Florida Public Policy Issue Forum	zoom

Meeting Dates

Board Meetings

March 3 - 11:00-1:00

April 7 - 11:00-1:00

May 5 - 11:00-1:00

June 2 - 11:00-1:00

Branch Meetings

March 18 - 2:00-4:30

April 15 - 2:00-4:30



Save The Date- May 21st
Annual Florida Meeting and Townhall
6:00pm

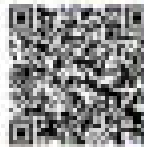
AAUW Florida 2026 Regional Conferences

"Leveraging Public Policy as a Leadership and Membership Tool"

Join us to network, learn to leverage public policy, advocate, and celebrate!
Registration is Required for Attendees. The Cost of the Event is \$30.
Payment/Registration Details are Below.

Register for 2026 South West Florida
Regional Leadership Conference

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-us/ticketing/2026-west-florida-regional-leadership-conference>



SOUTHWEST REGION

MAR 19: 10am - 3pm
Venice Art Center
300 Nokomis Ave. S.
Venice, FL
Host Branch: Sarasota

NORTH REGION

APR 11: 10am - 3pm
Cypress Knoll Golf Club
53 Easthampton Blvd.
Palm Coast, FL
Host Branch: Flagler

Register for 2026 North Florida Regional
Leadership Conference

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-us/ticketing/2026-north-florida-regional-leadership-conference>



Register for 2026 Southeast Florida
Regional Leadership Conference

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-us/ticketing/2026-east-florida-regional-leadership-conference>



SOUTHEAST REGION

APR 25: 10am - 3pm
N. Palm Beach Library
303 Anchorage Dr.
N. Palm Beach, FL
Host Branch: N. Palm Beach

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Save The Date- September 25-27, 2026
AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference 2026
Lancaster, PA!



2025-2026 Board of Directors

Lois Fisch President	Marcia Hill Secretary	Ellen Roche Treasurer
Diana Sells Memberships	Silvia Blanco Director of Programs	Sue McGowan Public Policy
Sue Casey Past President	Estephannie D. Synthesis / Communication	



AAUW SARASOTA

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United States of America

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